



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-*Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32) made the following statement on the House Floor regarding President Bush's proposed budget cuts:*

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today concerned about the budget cuts President Bush proposed for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It is nothing more than a smoke screen to help the overall budget numbers look better while making veterans shoulder more costs.

"This budget makes veterans pay a \$250 fee to enroll for health services and doubles their co-pays for prescriptions – changes that could affect more than 2 million veterans.

"It makes veterans wait longer for claims to be heard, delaying medical services.

"It provides a shameful 1.7% increase in funding -- far from the 14% the Veterans Affairs department needs to sustain existing services.

"President Bush's budget also forgets the new veterans serving abroad today in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the 1,445 killed and over 11,000 injured.

"These military families are struggling with extended stays, lack of mental health care, failure to provide bilingual services and lack of burial funds.

"They are keeping their commitment – we should keep ours."

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